TROUT UNLIMITED NISAW PROGRAM

Trout Unlimited, a national cold water organization with more than 140,000 volunteers organized into 400 chapters from Maine to Montana to Alaska is pleased to support the National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). Trout Unlimited (TU) is conducting two significant projects in conjunction with NISAW.

TU will be holding a special Volunteer Operations training session focused on providing grassroots volunteer leaders with information about the threats of aquatic invasive species. These volunteer leaders will engage TU’s dedicated grassroots army in the battle against aquatic invasive species (AIS) with a special emphasis on preventing the spread and introduction of AIS.

In association with NISAW TU will be releasing the results of a recently completed AIS survey which was conducted by researchers at Illinois State University and distributed by TU. The survey is designed to gather information about the understanding and awareness of aquatic invasive species issues amongst TU members and trout and salmon anglers, to identify AIS threats, and to gather information about angling habits and clean angling practices. The survey has been distributed to TU’s 140,000 members through the organization’s various electronic media including the [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) website, the TU Blog, Facebook, and Twitter. In addition, the fly fishing industry and fly shops around the U.S. have joined with TU to distribute the survey. The information gathered through the survey will be utilized by TU’s grassroots leaders and TU staff to help identify AIS issues that threaten TU’s mission to conserve and protect North America’s cold water trout, salmon, and steelhead resources and will help develop TU’s conservation agenda.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) is scheduled for February 26 - March 3, 2012 to bring attention to invasive species issues and is coordinated by the staff of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and co-chaired by the Secretaries of Commerce, Agriculture, and the Interior.

For more information on TU’s NISAW programs, please contact Dave Kumlien, Director TU’s Aquatic Invasive Species Program at 406-570-0023 or by email at [DKumlien@tu.org](mailto:DKumlien@tu.org)